

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/606,919

Applicant(s)

SHARPLES ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Edwin A. León

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

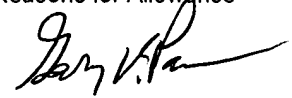
1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 6/26/03 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 11/2003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.


Gary Paumen
Primary Examiner

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-21 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Fency et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,217,354) disclose an electrical connector assembly (10) for mating with a mating connector (14), the electrical connector assembly (10) including a housing (12), a slide assist member (58) slideably supported on the housing (12) to facilitate mating with the mating connector (14), and a lever (42) pivotally connected with the housing (12), the lever (42) including an arm (44) connectable with the slide assist member (58) for causing the slide assist member (58) to slide from a pre-staged location (Fig. 5) to an engaged location (Fig. 7) with respect to the housing (12) in response to the lever (42) being pivoted from a pre-staged position (Fig. 5) to a engaged position (Fig. 7) relative to the housing (12), the slide assist member (58) including a notch (52b); and the arm (44) including a protrusion (70) which mates with the notch (52b) when the slide assist member (58) is in the engaged location (Fig. 7) and the lever (42) is in the engaged position (Fig. 7). See Figs. 1-7.

Drescheler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,213,795) disclose an electrical connector assembly (10) for mating with a mating connector (14), the electrical connector assembly (10) including a housing (16), a slide assist member (30, 31) slideably supported on the housing (16) to facilitate mating with the mating connector (14), and a lever (58) pivotally connected with the housing (16), the lever (58) including an arm (60) connectable with the slide assist member (30, 31) for causing the slide assist member

(30, 31) to slide from a pre-staged (Fig. 6) location to an engaged (Fig. 2) location with respect to the housing (16) in response to the lever (58) being pivoted from a pre-staged (Fig. 6) position to a engaged (Fig. 2) position relative to the housing (16), the slide assist member (30, 31) including a notch (80); and the arm (60) including a protrusion (68) which mates with the notch (80) when the slide assist member (30, 31) is in the engaged (Fig. 2) location and the lever (58) is in the engaged (Fig. 2) position. See Figs. 1-6.

However, the references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest, either alone or in combination, the protrusion being functional to interferingly abut the slide assist member and prevent movement of the lever from the pre-staged or first position to the engaged or second position when the lever is disconnected from the slide assist member and an attempt to move the lever from the pre-staged or first position to the engaged second position does not correspondingly move the slide assist member from the pre-staged or first location to the engaged or second location and in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

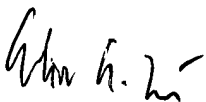
2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Busse et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,681,175), Bigotto et al. (U.S.

Patent No. 6,345,995), Martin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,558,176) and Seutschnicker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,168,445) disclose connector assemblies having levers, slide assist members and arms having protrusions.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Edwin A. Leon
AU 2833



Gary Paumen
Primary Examiner

EAL
September 7, 2004